

Vol 4 F.F. 6

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AN
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
TOWER OF LONDON,
AND ITS
Numerous Curiosities:

WITH AN ACCOUNT

OF its Foundation, Increase, present State, Government, Customs and Privileges, Antiquities, Records, &c. Of the Lions, Tigers, and other noble and beautiful Beasts and Birds. Of the Spoils and Trophies of the Spanish Armada, with a full Account of the Destruction of that vast Armament in the Year 1588. Of the Foot Armoury, in which is contained compleat Arms for 100,000 Men. Of the Royal train of Artillery, comprehending the destructive Engines of all Kinds used in War. Of the Horse Armoury, consisting of the Kings, from William the Conqueror, down to George the Second, in compleat Suits of Armour, on Horseback. Of the Jewel-Office, and the Regalia used at Coronations and on other Occasions; with a particular Account of the Attempt made by Colonel Blood to steal the Crown. And some Account of the Mint, and Method of Coining.

Compiled principally for the Use of those who visit this wonderful Assemblage of Curiosities; and to enable them, at any future Time, to bring to their Recollection what they have seen.

LONDON:

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MDCCC,

(Price Sixpence.)

PRICES *of viewing the* CURIOSITIES

IN THE

T O W E R.

LIONS:—Each Person pays One Shilling on entering the Menagery.

At the SPANISH ARMOURY each Person pays One Shilling, which will admit them to see all the Armouries, viz. SPANISH, HORSE, FOOT, and ARTILLERY.

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THE P R E F A C E.

*T*O be desirous of viewing the *Antiquities* and *Rarities* of our Country, must be allowed by all to be a laudable Curiosity; to point them out, therefore, to the Curious, and to direct their Attention to those Objects which most deserve Notice, is what is principally aimed at in this Book.

The Tower of London, for the antique Remains which are there treasured up, has been, for many Ages past, the Resort of Foreigners as well as Natives; but it has been complained of, that the Mind, being too much crowded with the Variety of Objects which present themselves, cannot retain a clear Recollection of any thing; and the Hurry with which the Guides are obliged to conduct their Visitants, owing to the great Numbers who are constantly visiting this Fortrefs, takes off, in some Measure, that full Gratification of the Mind, which they may be induced to expect. To remedy this Inconvenience, and to enable every one to direct himself in the Choice of his Objects, this little Book is now offered to the Public; in other Respects likewise it will not be wholly without its Use; for by comparing, as the Reader has here an Opportunity of doing, the traditional Stories of Guides, with the historical Facts to which they relate, he will be naturally led to imprint this useful Obser-

vation on his Mind, How little he ought to trust his Memory with Things that are of Importance enough to be retained, and how careful to commit to Writing all his Concerns, that on any future Occasion he might wish to remember.

It would be impertinent to trouble the Reader with a long Preface; shall conclude, therefore, with observing, that Pains have been taken to examine every Fact to which the Traditions at the Tower have any Allusion; to illustrate where they are obscure; to supply them where they are defective; and to correct them where they appear to be erroneous; Anecdotes are introduced, pertinent to the Subject, wherever Opportunity offers, in order to render the Whole both entertaining and useful; and but a small number of this Book will be struck off at a time, which will enable the Printer to give an Account of any Additions or Changes which may be made to this curious Selection.

AN
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
TOWER OF LONDON.

THE foundation of the Tower of London, according to the most authentic Records, was marked out, and that part of the building called the *White Tower* erected by *William the Conqueror*, in the Year 1076, with a view, no doubt, to secure to himself and his followers a safe retreat, in case of any surprise from the *English* while he was employed in settling the government of his new conquests.

That this was the design of raising it, appears from its situation, its extent, and its communication with the river *Thames*, from whence it might be supplied with all kinds of succours of men, provisions, and military stores. But how it could command the City, the Bridge and the River, so early as *William the Conqueror's* time, before the use of guns, as Mr. *Guthrie* asserts, I must own I cannot comprehend. And I believe, whoever views it attentively, even in its present state, will agree with me, that it was rather planned for a place of defence than offence. But to return. The death of the Conqueror in 1088, about eight years after this fortress was begun, put a stop to the progress of the work for awhile, and left the completion of it to that great genius in geometrical know-

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ledge, *William Rufus*, son to *William the Conqueror*, who in 1098, surrounded it with walls, and fortified it with a broad and deep ditch; since his time indeed the number of buildings within the walls has been gradually and greatly increased, so that it seems now rather a town than a fortress. It should be remarked, that this last mentioned monarch built *Westminster hall* also, at that time the admiration of all *Europe*.

The Tower is, perhaps, the best chosen situation for such a fortress of any in the world. It lies to the eastward of *London*, near enough to cover that opulent city from invasion by water; being only 800 yards from the Bridge; and to the north of the river *Thames*, from which it is parted by a narrow ditch and a convenient wharf, to which it has a communication by a drawbridge for the readier issuing and receiving ammunition, and naval or military stores. This wharf is now mounted with 61 peices of cannon, 9 pounders, chiefly used to fire upon days of state. Parallel to the wharf, within the walls, is a platform, 70 yards in length, called the *Ladies Line*, because much frequented by the ladies in summer, as within it is shaded by a lofty row of trees, and without, it has a delightful prospect of the shipping, with boats passing and repassing on the river *Thames*. You ascend this line by stone steps, and being once upon it, you may walk almost round the walls of the Tower without interruption, and in your course will pass three batteries; the first called the *Devil's Battery*, where is also a platform, on which are mounted seven pieces of cannon, though on the battery itself are only five; the next is called the *Stone Battery*, and is defended by eight pieces of cannon; and the third and last is called the *Wooden Battery*, mounted with six pieces of cannon; all these are 9 pounders.

The Tower is said by some to have been first inclosed by the Bishop of *Ely* in the reign of *Richard I.*; and by others to be of far higher antiquity than that. It has been supposed to have been made a place of defence even by the *Romans*. Different princes have added to the interior buildings. It is about a quarter of a mile in circuit round the Ditch.

The principal entrance into the Tower is by a gate to the west, large enough to admit coaches and heavy carriages; but these are first admitted through an outer gate, and must pass a stout stone bridge, built over the ditch, before they can approach the main entrance. There is besides, an entrance for persons on foot, over the drawbridge already mentioned, to the wharf, which wharf is only divided from the main land by gates at each end, opened every day at a certain hour for the convenience of a free intercourse between the respective inhabitants of the Tower, the City, and its suburbs. There is also a water-gate, commonly called *Traitor's Gate*, through which it has been customary to convey traitors, and other state prisoners to or from the Tower, perhaps for greater privacy, and which is seldom opened on any other occasions; but the Lords committed to the Tower in the last rebellion were publicly admitted at the main entrance. Over this gate is a regular building, terminated at each end by two bastions, or round towers, on which are embrasures for pointing cannon, but there are none mounted. In this building there are the infirmary, the mill, and the water works that supply the Tower with water.

Near the *Traitor's Gate* is an old building called the *Bloody Tower*, in which it is said the two young princes, *Edward V.* and his brother were smothered by *Richard III.* On some old stairs being removed in this building, many years ago, the bones of two children were discovered, supposed of these princes.

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Great ceremony is used at opening and shutting the principal gate night and morning. A little before six in the morning in the summer, and as soon as it is well light in the winter, the yeoman porter goes to the Governor's house for the keys, from whence he proceeds to the innermost gate, attended by a serjeant and six men from the main guard; this gate being opened to let them pass, is again shut, while the yeoman porter and the guard proceed to open the three outermost gates, at each of which the guards rest their firelocks, as do the spur guard while the keys pass and repass. Upon the yeoman porter's return to the innermost gate, he calls to the warders in waiting, to take in King George's keys, upon which the gate is opened, and the keys lodged in the warders hall till the time of locking, which is usually about ten at night, with the same formality as when opened; after they are shut, the yeoman and guards proceed to the main guard, who are all under arms with the officers upon duty at their head, the usual challenge from the main guard to the yeoman porter is, *who comes there?* his answer is, *the keys*. The challenger says, *pass keys*; upon which the officer orders the guard to rest their firelocks; the yeoman porter then says, *God save King George. Amen* is loudly answered by all the guard. From the main guard the yeoman porter with his guard proceeds to the Governor's, where the keys are left; after which no person can go out or come in upon any pretence whatsoever till next morning, without the watch-word for the night, which is kept so secret, that none but the proper officers, and the serjeant upon guard ever come to the knowledge of it; and it is the same on the same night in every fortified place throughout the King's dominions. When that is given by any stranger, to the centinal at the spur guard, (or outergate) he communicates it to his serjeant, who

passes it to the next on duty, and so on till it comes to the Governor, or commanding officer, by whom the keys are delivered to the yeoman porter, who, attended as before, the main guard being put under arms, brings them to the outer gate, where the stranger is admitted, and conducted to the commandant. Having made known his business, he is reconducted to the outer gate, dismissed, the gate shut, and the keys redelivered with all the formality as at first.

The principal officers to whom the government and care of the Tower is committed, are first, the Constable of the Tower, who is usually of the highest quality, as his post at all coronations and other state ceremonies is of the utmost importance, having the crown and other regalia in his custody; he has under him a Lieutenant, and a Deputy-Lieutenant, commonly called Governor, whose offices are likewise of great dignity; a Tower-Major, Gentleman Porter, Yeoman Porter, Gentleman-Jailor, four Quarter Gunners, and forty Warders, whose uniform is the same as the King's yeomen of the guard: upon their heads they wear round flat-crowned caps, tied round with bands of party-coloured ribbands: their coats are of a peculiar make, but very becoming, with large sleeves, and flowing skirts, and are of a fine scarlet cloth, laced round the edges and seams with several rows of gold lace; and girt round their waists with a broad laced girdle. Upon their breasts and backs they wear the King's silver badge, representing the thistle and rose, on which are the letters G.R. The origin of the Warders is not certainly known; but conjectured to have been when *Henry VIII.* made the Tower his place of residence for the sake of privacy.

Besides these and other officers not necessary to be enumerated, there is always a battalion of one

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of the three regiments of foot guards on duty, who are quartered in barracks during there stay here, they being once a year-relieved from St. James's.

The principal buildings within the walls are, the Church, the White Tower, the Offices of Ordnance, of the Mint, of the Keepers of the Records, the Jewel office, the Horse Armoury, the Grand Storehouse, in which is the Small-Armoury, good houses for the chief officers residing in the Tower, with many smaller houses for other officers, &c. and barracks for the soldiers on duty, besides prisons for state delinquents, which are commonly in the warders houses.

The church has nothing extraordinary belonging to it, except having the headless bodies of many illustrious persons who suffered on the Hill or within the Tower.

The White Tower is a large square irregular building, situate almost in the centre, no one side answering to another. The building consists of three very lofty stories, under which are most spacious and commodious vaults, chiefly filled with salt-petre. It is covered at the top with flat leads, from whence there is an extensive and delightful prospect.

In the first story are two noble rooms, one of which is a small Armoury for the sea service, having various sorts of arms very curiously laid up in it for more than 10,000 seamen. In the other room are closets and presses in abundance, all filled with warlike tools and instruments of death without number. Over these are two other floors, one filled principally with arms, the other with arms and armourers tools, such as chevaux de frize, pickaxes, spades and shovels. In the upper story is kept match, sheep skins, tanned hides, &c. and in a little room some records, containing the ancient usages and privileges of the place.

On the top of this Tower is a large cistern, or reservoir, for supplying the whole garrison with water in case of need: it is about seven feet deep, nine in breadth, and about sixty in length; and is filled from the *Thames*, by means of an engine very ingeniously contrived, which has been mentioned before.

To the southward of the White Tower is the Modelling room, in which is contained a very curious model of the rock of *Gibraltar*, &c. &c. but no strangers are admitted to see them.

The Office of Ordnance is kept in *Cold Harbour*, to which office all other offices for supplying artillery, arms, and ammunition, or other warlike stores, are accountable; and from which office all orders for the disposition of warlike materials for every kind of service are issued. This building, which within these few years has been finished in a very commodious and handsome style, was, in the year 1789, totally destroyed by fire; but it is now rebuilt in such a manner, as will prevent another accident of the kind.

The Mint is also a separate division, which comprehends near one third of the Tower, and contains houses for all the Gentlemen belonging to the coinage, &c.

The office of Keeper of the Records is opposite the Platform beforementioned. It has lately been adorned with a fine carved stone door-case at the entrance, and finely wainscoted within. All the rolls from King *John* to the beginning of the reign of *Richard III.* are deposited in 56 wainscot presses in this office; those since that time are kept at the Rolls in *Chancery Lane*. The rolls and records kept in the Tower contain the ancient tenures of all the lands in *England*, with a survey of the manors: the original of all laws and statutes; the rights of *England* to the dominion of the *British*

seas; leagues and treaties with foreign princes; the achievements of *England* in foreign wars; ancient grants of our Kings to their subjects; the forms of submission of the *Scottish* Kings; writs and proceedings of the courts of common law and equity; the settlement of *Ireland* as to law and dominion; privileges and immunities granted to all cities and corporations during the period beforementioned: with many other important records, all regularly disposed by the diligence of Sir *William Dugdale*, and others under his direction, and properly referred to in near a thousand folio indexes. A search here is half a guinea, for which you may peruse any one subject a year. In the months of *December*, *January* and *February*, this office is open six hours a day; but all the rest of the year eight.

The Jewel-office is a dark, strong stone room, a few yards to the eastward of the grand storehouse. The regalia kept in this office will be spoken of when we come to treat of the curiosities in the Tower.

The Horse Armoury is a little eastward of the White Tower. It is a plain brick building, rather convenient than elegant. Its contents are likewise among the curiosities commonly shewn at the Tower, and will be distinctly described hereafter.

The Grand Storehouse is a noble building to the northward of the White Tower, and extends in length 245 feet, in breadth 60. It was begun by King *James II.* and by that Prince built to the first floor; but finished by King *William*, who erected that magnificent room called the Small Armoury, in which he, with Queen *Mary* his consort, dined in great form, having all the warrant workmen and labourers to attend them, dressed in white gloves, and aprons, the usual badges of the order of Free

Masonry. This noble structure is of brick and stone, and on the north side is a stately door-case, adorned with four columns, entablature, and triangular pediment, of the Doric order. Under the pediment are the King's arms, trophy-work, &c.

The other buildings within the Tower, having nothing remarkable, we shall proceed to the description of those Curiosities which are usually shewn to strangers.

OF THE LIONS,
and other WILD BEASTS in the TOWER.

OF all the curiosities in the Tower, none seem more to attract the notice of its numerous visitors than the Lions, and other beautiful animals in his Majesty's Menagery. On passing the outer gate, and what is called the Spur Guard, you will see the keeper's house in the corner of the yard, by a painting of a lion over the gate. On ringing the bell you will be admitted, each person paying 1s. to view this collection of animals, and the Keeper will give you a very descriptive and full account of them, their natures, properties, &c.

On entering you are first conducted to a semi-circular range of dens, inhabited by various animals.

I. FANNY, a very fine Lioness from *Algiers*, presented to his Majesty by Gen. *Rainsford*. The *Moor* who had the care of her on the voyage used constantly to sleep with her, and when landed at the Tower, the *Moor* led her to her den with a string: she was so attached to this *Moor*, that when he left her she actually pined to that degree, that she would take no food; but the keeper tried an experiment to divert her, by going into her den with a dog in his arms, when she immediately went to the dog, caressed him, and has had him with her ever since, and never eats till he is satisfied.

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2. **YOUNG NERO**, a very noble He Lion, bred in the Tower, now about eight years old.

3. **MISS FANNY**, a beautiful Lioness, bred at the same time as Nero: this animal discovers a degree of ferocity so far beyond that of any Lion or Lioness now in the Tower, that spectators are struck with astonishment at such a difference in disposition among the same species.

4. **MISS HOWE** and } These fine Lionesses were
MISS FANNY HOWE } whelped on the glorious
1st of June, 1794, and were called after the gallant Conqueror of the French on that day.

5. A Lion and Lioness are lately arrived from Bussora, in the Gulf of Persia, two very fine animals.

The lion is an inhabitant of all parts of Africa, and of some parts of Asia, but they most abound in the torrid zone, where they are the largest, and their rage the most tremendous, being inflamed by the influence of a burning sun and a dry soil. It is observed, that though they reign absolute masters of every beast, their rage diminishes as they approach the dwellings of the human race. Many instances are related of the noble nature of these animals, by their gratitude, &c. The lion preys on all animals; having roused them by his roar, he starts on them, striking it with his talons, and tearing it to pieces. He also invades the fold, leaping over the fences with his prey; and his strength is so astonishingly great, that he runs away with a middling sized ox with the greatest ease. Mankind falls a victim to his hunger more than to his choice.

There is in a place adjacent a stupendous male **ELEPHANT**, from Calcutta, in Bengal, presented to his Majesty by the Nabob of Arcot, the largest seen in England for many years.—Elephants grow to the enormous height of from 12 to 15

feet. They have a long trunk formed of many rings, and terminated with a small moveable hook. This trunk serves the animal instead of a hand to convey any thing into its mouth, and to defend itself from its enemies; and which is the organ of feeling and smell. It has, besides, two large tusks projecting from the upper jaw. The tusks in large elephants are seven feet long. The eyes of this animal are small, its ears large and pendulous, the back arched, the lips thick and clumsy, the neck short, the feet round and undivided, but terminated at their margin by five small hoofs, the knees are flexible, it has two paps on the breast, the tail like that of a hog, and the skin, which is almost without hair, so thick, that it is almost proof against a bullet. It is the largest of all land animals. Elephants are found both in Asia and Africa, but are largest in the former. They go a year with young, and bring forth one at a time. They live, according to Tavernier, 120 and 130 years, and are 30 years before they attain their full growth. They are, notwithstanding their size, exceedingly swift, and so strong, that they are employed to carry pieces of artillery, small towers with a number of people in them, and also vast loads. They are, notwithstanding their size and strength, the most docile and tractable of all animals. Naturalists agree in saying, that the elephant discovers a great sensibility of benefits received, a modesty, an ambition, and a resentment of injuries to an amazing degree. In proof of the latter sense the following is related as an absolute fact: an elephant which was regularly taken to water every morning, passing the window of a taylor rather closer than usual, by chance put his trunk in, when the man in a frolic pricked it with his needle; the elephant passed on, but when at the water was observed by his rider to fill his trunk after he had done drinking; when he

repassed the window, he sent forth a torrent of water at the taylor, and went quietly on.

In the large Yard there is a very beautiful Royal Tiger, brought from China in the Pitt East India-man, and presented to his Majesty by Secretary Nepean: he is an animal of singular beauty, and very large.—The tiger is peculiar to Asia; the greatest numbers are met with in India and its islands. In Sumatra the natives seldom kill them, apprehending that they are animated by the souls of their ancestors. They are the scourge of the country, lurking among bushes on the sides of rivers, and almost depopulating many places; they are insidious, blood-thirsty and malevolent; and seem to like preying on the human race in preference to all animals; they do not pursue their prey, but bound on it from their ambush, with an elasticity and from a distance scarcely credible; if they miss the object, they sneak off; but, if they succeed, they carry it off with such ease, that it seems not the least impediment to their flight. If they are undisturbed they plunge their heads into the bodies of the victim they have seized up to their eyes, as it were to satiate themselves with blood, which they exhaust the carcases of before they tear them to pieces. There is a cruelty in their devastations unknown to the lion, as well as a cowardice in their sudden retreat on any disappointment. These animals have been taken in Bengal so large, as nine feet from the head to the insertion of the tail.

DUCHES, a fine young Leopards from the Malabar coast, a present to his Majesty by Lord Carlisle. The brightness of the colours of this animal is beautiful in the extreme. There are 2 or 3 Leopards besides this.

JACK, a black Leopard, presented to his Majesty by Gov. Hastings. His spots are clearly visible, they being darker than his coat: he is the only

one of that colour ever seen. These animals, when nearly examined, are found to be very like a cat in many respects; they are nimble and very fierce, so that hardly any thing escapes them.

A Hyæna, brought from the island of Saltset near Bombay, and presented to the Prince of Wales by Mr. Gooch, chief mate of the Lord Camden Indiaman. This is a most untamable animal, as no art can make him sociable even with his keeper.

You will be introduced to the School of Monkeys; they are truly a set of droll animals, of various species, but have not room to enumerate them. Mr. Buffon asserts, that there are 50 different species of the monkey tribe. There is a large baboon called JUMBO, which is worthy remark: he is very large, and so shrewd and sensible, that he seems to do every thing but talk: he occasions a deal of diversion.

A fine young Greenland Bear, very large; this species grow to the size of an ox. Also a large brown Bear.

A beautiful Tiger Cat, from the river *Gambia*, presented to the Prince of Wales by Captain *Gambier*. All the naturalists who have seen this animal, allow him to be the most beautiful one ever brought to *England*.

A fine Coatimandy, brought from *Honduras*, presented to his Majesty by Lady *Read*. This animal is a formidable enemy to the alligators, by destroying their eggs, which they dig out of the sand, where they are left to hatch by the heat of the sun, and by killing the young ones in great numbers soon after they are hatched.

Two Racoons, bred in the Tower; these animals are so cleanly, that they always wash their meat before they eat it; they get shell-fish on the sea shore in the following manner; when the tide

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leaves them, they frequently open, and then the racoon puts a stone in, and so gets the fish.

A Jackall, or Lion's Provider. The naturalists disagree much in opinion respecting these animals being stiled the lion's provider; many reasons have been given, but the following one only is selected, being the most plausible. These animals are possessed of a most excellent nose, and are therefore better calculated to hunt for their prey than any other animal; and at night, when they are on the look-out, and get scent of the foot of another animal, they immediately make a strange noise, somewhat like a child crying: the lion hearing this immediately pursues the jackall, who falls a prey to the lion.

16. An Eagle of the Sun, taken in a *French* prize by Admiral *Boscawen*, and presented by him to his late Majesty. This bird is supposed to soar the highest of all the feathered tribe; and is able to look stedfastly at the sun in its most resulgent state.

It is observed of the Eagle of the Sun, that as soon as they hatch they turn the heads of their young to the eastern sun, and if they cannot bear the light and heat, spurn them from the nest as a spurious race. Agreeable to this idea is that beautiful simile of Dryden's:

*So when Jove's Bird, on some tall cedar's head,
Has a new race of gen'rous eagles bred,
While yet implum'd within the nest they lie,
Wary she turns them to the eastern sky:
Then, if unequal to the god of day,
Ash'd they shrink, and shun the potent ray,
She spurns them forth, and casts 'em quite away.
But if with daring eye unmov'd they gaze,
Withstand the light, and bear the golden blaze,
Tender she breeds them with a Parent's love,
The future servants of her master Jove.*

Hares, fawns, lambs, poultry, and birds of various kinds, are what the eagles bring up their young with: and it is said with confidence, that in several parts of France, where an eagle's nest happens to be built on any estate, the owner of it is amply provided with game, &c. In confirmation of this take the following story: A gentleman on his travels passing near Mende, was invited by an officer of distinction in the neighbourhood to spend a few days at his country seat, with some other travellers, where they were all entertained in the politest manner. At the first course he gave us, says he, we observed with some surprize, that all the wild fowl which were brought to table, wanted either a wing, a leg, or some other part; which occasioned our gentleman to say very pleasantly, that we must pardon the voraciousness of his caterer, who was such a brute as always to be the first who tasted what he provided. When he was asked who this caterer might be, and he perceived that we were pleased with his facetious treatment, with much good humour he proceeded to inform us, that in the mountainous parts of the country round him, the eagles build their nests, and chuse for that purpose the cavities of the most inaccessible rocks, which, when the peasants chance to discover, they raise little huts in convenient places to watch their motions as soon as they have hatched their young, whom the male as well as female labour to bring up; in order to do which they ravage all the neighbouring country; capons, fowls, lambs, kids, ducks, and pigs, suffer on this occasion; but the forests and woods supply them with the greatest dainties, for there they get pheasants, partridges, hares, fawns, &c. These when the peasant perceives the eagle to bring in, they instantly plant their ladders, and the moment the old eagle departs they ascend to the nest, and exchange these dainties

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for garbage, and food of a less costly nature; but as this cannot be done so suddenly as to prevent the young eagles tasting it, so the peasants bring it as it now appears on the table.

There are Wolves and other Animals, which for want of room we cannot enumerate.

At the same time that we admire these animals both for their beauty and novelty, we cannot help being thankful that we enjoy the beautiful landscape, and the charming and picturesque scenes of these happy climes, without the fear of meeting with these dreadful depredators.

Of the Spoils of the INVINCIBLE ARMADA.

WHEN you enter the great gate of the Tower one of the warders will attend you, and conduct you in regular order to the several places where the curiosities are shewn; the first of which is situated to the southward of the White Tower, and in it are deposited the Spoils of the Invincible Armada, as it was stiled, of *Phillip* the Second of *Spain*, in order to perpetuate, to the latest posterity, the memory of that signal victory obtained by the *English* over the whole naval power of *Spain*, which will ever make the reign of *Queen Elizabeth* glorious in the *British* annals. This Armada, when it rendezvoused at the *Groyn*, under the command of the Duke of *Medina Sidonia*, consisted of 132 ships, including transports, on board of which were embarked 19,290 soldiers, 8350 sailors, 2080 galley slaves, and 2630 pieces of cannon, which at that time of day, when ships of 1200 tons carried hardly 60 pieces of ordnance, was a prodigious force. On the 21st of *July*, 1588, this formidable

fleet appeared off *Plymouth*, and was met there by the *English* fleet, under the command of Lord *Essex*, Lord High Admiral, *Drake*, *Hawkins*, and *Forbisher*, when both fleets immediately formed the line of battle. The van of the *Spanish* fleet was led by *Alphonso de Leuya*, the Duke of *Medina* commanded in the centre, and *Juan Martinez de Ricaldo* in the rear. The Lord High Admiral of *England*, in his own ship, called the *Ark Royal*, seconded by the rest of his squadron, fell upon *Leuya's* division, and a terrible engagement ensued; but our Admirals, mutually supporting each other where the danger was greatest, and taking advantage of the enemy where they observed them weakest, put their rear into disorder, and forced them upon the centre, which occasioned some confusion; but night coming on, obliged both parties to lie by; and the *English* being ill provided with ammunition and stores, were in no haste to renew the engagement, well knowing that every day would weaken their adversaries, and encrease their own strength. Accordingly, the very night after the first engagement, one of the ships of the line, by some accident blew up, and the fire from her communicating itself to the ship whereof Don *Pedro de Valdez* was Captain, she fell an easy prize to Admiral *Drake*, who sent her into *Dartmouth*. This was looked upon as a favourable presage of victory. Two whole days, however, were spent in repairing the damages sustained on both sides, in which time the *English* were continually reinforced from the neighbouring ports, with men, ammunition, and ships, which enabled them, on the 23d, after some time spent in endeavouring to gain the wind, to fight the enemy on more equal terms than in the preceding engagement; and having gained their point, they fell upon *Ricaldo's* squadron with their whole force, and would certainly have destroyed it, had not the

Spanish Admiral made a gallant manœuvre for its preservation. Then the fight became general, and the *English* managed their ships with so much ease and dexterity, that the unwieldy *Spaniards*, who lay like hulks in a dead calm, could make but little use of their superior strength, orders having been given by the *English* commander in chief to avoid by all means a close engagement, and as the enemy's ships were full of men, a terrible slaughter ensued, without suffering on our part any considerable loss. In this manner a sort of running fight was maintained for two days, with no decisive advantage on either side, other than what arose from the disparity of the numbers killed.

It is to be remarked, that according to the original plan of this invasion, the *Spanish* Admiral was to have been joined in the *British Channel* by the Duke of *Parma*, with a body of 36,000 land forces from the *Spanish Netherlands*; but seeing no appearance of their arrival, he had dispatched express after express to hasten their embarkation; and at length set sail himself towards *Calais* to facilitate their junction. This motion had been foreseen, and a strong squadron of forty sail, under Lord *Henry Seymour* and Sir *William Winter*, were properly stationed, as well to block the ports from whence these succours were to embark, as to watch the motions of the *Spanish* Admiral. This was a noble stroke of policy, and soon followed by another which ruined their whole project, and put an end to the great consternation which had overspread the whole nation on the first appearance of this vast armament.

When it was discovered by the Lord High Admiral what course the *Spaniards* had steered, a council of war was immediately called, wherein it was resolved not to lose a moment in pursuing them. On this occasion Adm. Drake, whose pre-

sence of mind never failed him on the most pressing emergencies, bethought himself of an expedient to distress the enemy, without risking the fleet in an unequal conflict. Thus having communicated his plan to the commander in chief, it was resolved to put it in execution, especially as the contrivance was new, and consequently unsuspected. Accordingly, eight old shattered vessels were hastily fitted up, and filled with all sorts of combustibles; and when the fleet came up with the enemy, who were now at anchor off *Calais*, waiting for the Duke of *Parma*, those ships were secretly dispatched in the night, with proper instructions to their respective captains to grapple at proper distances, where the enemy were closest in the line, observing always to keep the wind; and when their ships were thus properly stationed, to set them on fire, and then bring off their men. This was executed under the directions of the Captains *Prowse* and *Young* with all imaginable success; for while the *Spaniards*, thinking themselves surprised, were preparing for an unexpected attack, the captains of the fireships did their business, and in little more than an hour, the whole ocean seemed on fire. Now nothing but horror, confusion, and hurry ensued; some were on fire, some fell foul of others, some cut their cables and drove on shore; and had it not been for the calmness of the Duke of *Medina*, their whole fleet would that night have been destroyed; but he, perceiving the danger, and penetrating the cause, ordered his fleet to separate, every one shifting for himself, and to rendezvous next morning at *Gravelin*. Though these were the wisest orders that could have been issued out in such a dilemma, yet the *English* reaped from the consequences all the advantages they could have wished; it furnished them with an opportunity of attacking their huge ships singly, with what force they thought proper, and of com-

ing to a general engagement before the *Spaniards* were recovered from the dreadful panic into which they had been put. *Drake* and *Forbisher*, experienced sea officers as ever the world produced, well knew how to improve this critical turn of fortune in their favour, and resolutely attacked the Duke of *Medina's* squadron before it could be half formed, and made terrible havock, while the other commanders were as vigilant in seeking out the scattered remains of *Levy's* and *Ricaldo's*; in a word, the sea seemed covered with wrecks; and the flower of the *English* nobility, who had waited on shore for the event of the engagement, seeing all fears over from the *Spaniards* landing, flocked on board the ships, which were now encreased to 150 sail, to be sharers in the glory of delivering their country from slavery and papal tyranny. In vain did the Duke of *Medina*, in this lamentable distress, endeavour to regain the *British Channel*; the winds and waves fought against him, and drove him on the coast of *Zealand*, where he must have perished without any other enemies than winds, waves, rocks and sands, had not Providence reserved him to experience farther dangers. The *English*, well knowing that they must share in one common destruction if they pursued, prudently gave over the chase; and the Duke, having now no other views than those of self-preservation (the wind changing at the very instant of his greatest danger) called a council of war, in which it was resolved to sail for *Spain* by the northern passage. In this resolution they weighed anchor, but a storm arose which crossed their hopes for a time, and left them once more to the mercy of the *English*, who now being sensible of their design, pursued them to the *Frith of Edinburgh*, though with no other advantage than that of weakening their crippled ships still more, and thereby exposing them to the fury of the

first tempest that happened, which afterwards almost entirely destroyed them.

In the several engagements on the *British* coast, fifteen of their stoutest ships, besides transports, were either destroyed or taken: on the coast of *Ireland* some were sunk, some dashed to pieces against the rocks, some run on the sands, and were burnt by the *Spaniards* themselves. Between the rivers of *Lochfoille* and *Lochswilly* on the north coast, nine were stranded, and the crews forced to seek for succour among the wild *Irish*. In the Bay of *Calbeggy* three more were run upon rocks, and most of the men perished. In the Bay of *Barreys*, a large ship of 1000 tons, and 54 fine brass cannon, was sunk, and all on board perished, except sixteen, who by their apparel seemed persons of great distinction. On the coast of *Thomond* two ships more perished, one whereof they fired; the other was of *St. Sebastian's*, and had 300 men on board, 240 of whom were drowned. Before *Sir Tyrlogh Obrien's* house another great ship was lost, supposed to be a galleas. In short, from the 21st of *July*, when this vaunting armada first appeared in the *British Channel*, until the 10th of *September*, when the shattered remains of it passed the *Irish* coast, it should seem that it had not had one good day or night; so that of 132 ships that arrived in the Channel, scarce 70 of them returned home again; and of 30,000 souls on board, upwards of 20,000 were either killed, drowned, or remained prisoners in *England*.—Such was the fate of this vain-glorious enterprize, which received the blessing of the Pope, and which he pronounced *Invincible*.

An Account of some Reliques found in the Ships captured on this occasion, with other Curiosities.

1. The common soldiers pikes, 18 feet long, pointed with long sharp spikes, and shod with iron,

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which were designed to keep off the horse to facilitate the landing of the foot.

2. The *Spanish* officers lances, finely engraved : these were formerly gilt, but the gilding is now almost worn off with cleaning.—There is a story current concerning these, that, when Don *Pedro de Valdez*, already mentioned, passed his examination before Lord *Burleigh*, he told his Lordship that those fine polished lances were put on board to bleed the *English* with ; to which that Nobleman replied jokingly, that, if he were not mistaken, the *English* had performed that operation better on their good friends the *Spaniards* with worse instruments.

3. The *Spanish* ranceurs, made in different forms, which were intended either to kill the men on horseback, or pull them off their horses. At the back is a spike, with which they tell you they were to pick the roast beef out of the *Englishmen's* teeth. On one of them is piece of silver coin, which they intended to make current : on it are three heads, supposed to be the Pope's, *Phillip II's*, and Queen *Mary's*. This is a curiosity that most *Spaniards* come to see.

4. An uncommon piece of arms, being a pistol in a shield, so contrived as to fire the pistol, and cover the body at the same time with the shield. It is to be fired by a match-lock, and the sight of the enemy is to be taken through a little grate in the shield, which is pistol-proof.

5. A small train of ten pieces of pretty little cannon, neatly mounted on proper carriages, being a present from the foundery of *London* to King *Charles I.* when a child, to practise the art of gunnery with. These, though no part of the *Spanish* spoils, are yet a great curiosity.

6. The banner, with a crucifix upon it, which was to have been carried before the *Spanish* general. On it is engraved the Pope's benediction before the

Spanish fleet failed: for the Pope came to the water-side, and on seeing the fleet, blessed it, and pronounced it INVINCIBLE.

7. *Danish* and *Saxon* clubs, which weapons those people jointly are said to have used in their conquest of *England*, and are, perhaps, curiosities of the greatest antiquity of any in the Tower, having lain there above 850 years. The warders call them the womens' weapons, because, say they, the *British* women made prize of them, when, in one night, they all conspired together, and cut the throats of 35000 *Danes*, the greatest piece of secrecy the *English* women ever kept, for which they have ever since been honoured with the right hand of the man, the upper end of the table, and the first cut of every dish of victuals they happen to like best. Indeed, in 1002, a prodigious slaughter was made of the *Danes*, on the Feast of St. *Brice*, not by the secret orders of the women alone, but by the private orders of *Ethelred* II. who commanded his officers on that day to extirpate the whole race of the *Danes* at once, sparing neither man, woman nor child; which orders were so punctually obeyed, that only about 16, who got on board a ship, escaped; but these, alarming their countrymen, afterwards returned, and took a severe revenge.

8. The *Spanish* cravats, as they are called; these are engines of torture, made of iron, and put on board to lock the feet, arms and head of *English* hereticks together.

9. *Spanish* bilboes, made of iron likewise, to yoke the prisoners two and two.

10. *Spanish* shot, which are of four sorts, spike-shot, star-shot, chain-shot and link-shot; all admirably contrived, as well for the destruction of masts and rigging of ships, as for sweeping the decks of their men. But some attribute the invention of

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these to Admiral *Drake*, to be employed against the *Spaniards*.

11. *Spanish* spadas, poisoned at the points, so that if a man received but ever so slight a wound with one of these, it proved certain death.

12. *Spanish* halberts, or spears, some whereof are curiously engraven, and inlaid with gold.

13. The axe with which Queen *Ann Bullen* (mother of Queen *Elizabeth*) was beheaded. This was performed *May* 19, 1536, a little before noon, by an executioner sent for on purpose from *Calais*. At the time of her death she was not quite 30 years of age, and fell a sacrifice to the jealousy and caprice of *Henry VIII.* to whom she was lawfully married. The Earl of *Essex*, Queen *Elizabeth's* favourite, was likewise beheaded with the same axe.

14. A *Spanish* pole-axe, used for boarding ships.

15. Thumb-screws, of which there were several chests full on board the *Spanish* fleet. The use they were intended for is said to have been, to extort confession from the *English* where their money was hid, had that cruel people prevailed. Certain it is, that after the defeat, the whole conversation of the court and country turned upon the discoveries made by the *Spanish* prisoners, of the racks, the wheels, and the whips of wire, with which they were to scourge the *English*. The most noted hereticks were to be put to death; those that survived were to be branded on the forehead with a hot iron; and the whole form of government, both in church and state, was to have been overturned.

16. The *Spanish* morning-star, a destructive engine resembling a star, designed to prevent the enemy from boarding.

17. The *Spanish* General's halbert, covered with velvet. All the nails of this weapon are double gilt; and on its top is the Pope's head, curiously engraven.

18. A *Spanish* battle-axe, so contrived, as to strike four holes in a man's head at once; and has besides a pistol in its handle with a match-lock.

19. King Henry the VIIIth's walking-staff, which has three match-lock pistols in it, with coverings to keep the charges dry. With this staff the warders tell you the King walked round the city sometimes, to see that the constables did their duty; and one night as he was walking near the foot of the bridge, the constable stopped him to know what he did with such an unlucky weapon at that time of night; upon which the King struck him; but the constable calling the watchmen to his assistance, his Majesty was apprehended, and conveyed to the *Poultry Compter*, where he lay confined till morning, without either fire or candle: when the keeper was informed of the rank of his prisoner, he dispatched a messenger to the constable, who came trembling with fear, expecting nothing but to be hanged, drawn and quartered; but instead of that the King applauded his resolution in honestly doing his duty, and made him a handsome present.

20. A large wooden cannon, called *Policy*, because, say your guides, when Henry VIII. besieged *Bulloign*, the roads being impassable for heavy cannon, he caused a number of these wooden ones to be made, and mounted on proper batteries before the town, as if real cannon, which so terrified the *French* commandant, that when he beheld such a formidable train, as he thought, just ready to play, he gave up the town without firing a shot.

The last thing they shew of the *Spanish* spoils is their General's shield, not worn, but carried before him as an ensign of honour. On it are depicted, in curious workmanship, the labours of *Hercules*, and other curious allegories, which seem to throw a shade on the skill of modern artists. The date is 1376; and an inscription, well engraved, *Adulter-*

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rio Deianira conspueans occiditur Cacus ab Hercule.
opprimitur 1379—alluding to *Hercules* killing *Cacus*
 for adultery with his wife.

QUEEN ELIZABETH at TILBURY.

At the upper end of the room is a great canopy, inclosed with Gothic arches and pillars, which, when drawn up, presents to view one of the most grand and beautiful scenes of any within the Tower. It represents Queen *Elizabeth* just alighted from her horse to review her troops at *Tilbury*. She is superbly dressed in the armour she wore on that occasion, with a rich white silk petticoat, curiously ornamented with pearls, &c. her robe, or upper dress, is rich crimson sattin, laced with gold, and fringe; her hair finely decorated with pearls, &c. By her side stands a beautiful cream coloured horse, his bridle curiously ornamented, and saddle covered with crimson velvet, gold lace and fringe. At the horse's head stands the Queen's page, holding the bridle with his left hand, and the Queen's helmet adorned with white feathers, in his right hand: the page is dressed in a silk snuff-coloured garment lined with blue, and a blue silk sash fringed with gold, according to the fashion of that time.

There are in this Place two Flags, taken by Lord *Rodney* in the *West Indies*, and some other curiosities of inferior note.

Of the SMALL ARMOURY.

TO this amazing repository you are led up a spacious stair case, when, on entering the Armoury, you behold, almost at one view, compleat suits of arms for upwards of 100,000 men, all bright, and perfectly ready for immediate use, as a number of men are constantly employed in an adjacent apartment, to polish and keep them bright. To support the centre of the room there are very

noble columns, round which are pistols formed in a serpentine direction to the top. Of the disposition of the arms in this place, no description can convey to the mind an adequate idea. You are struck with wonder and amazement at your first entering this room (which is the whole length of the building, 345 feet,) at the artful and beautiful manner in which all the arms are arranged.

1. A rising and setting sun, with the glories round each, delineated by swords, hangers, &c. near which are the heads of *Julius Cæsar* and *Titus Vespasian*.

2. Swords and bayonets, arranged in the shape of fans.

3. Some arms taken at *Bath*, in the year 1715, which are different from all others in the Tower, having what they call dog locks, which have a catch, to secure them from going off at half cock.

4. Bayonets and pistols, put up in the form of half moons and fans, with the imitation of a target in the centre, made up of bayonets: these bayonets, of which you will observe several other fans composed, are of the earliest invention, having plug handles, which go into the muzzle of the gun instead of over it, which prevented the firing of the piece while the bayonet was on.

5. A curious device formed with swords and pikes, resembling a triumphal arch.

6. An eagle, with the rose and crown, surrounded with a multitude of pistols, artfully arranged.

7. King *John*.

8. A lion and unicorn, encircled with pistols, &c.

9. *Henry III.* who reigned 56 years.

10. An eagle, similar to the above.

11. The Earl of *Mar*'s shield.

12. The Highlander's arms, taken in 1715, particularly the Earl of *Mar*'s fine piece, exquisitely wrought, and inlaid with mother of pearl; also a

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Highland broad sword, with which a Highlander struck Gen. *Evans* over the head, and at one blow cut him through his hat, wig, and iron skull-cap; on which that General is said to have shot him dead. Here is also the sword of justice, having a sharp point, and the sword of mercy, having a blunt point, carried before the Pretender when proclaimed in *Scotland* in 1715; some of the Highlander's pistols, the stocks being all of iron; also a Highlander's *Loughabor* axe, with which it is said Col. *Gardner* was killed at the battle of *Preston Pans*.

13. The arms taken from Sir *William Perkins*, Sir *John Friend*, &c. concerned in the assassination plot in 1696, among which is shewn the very blunderbuss with which they intended to shoot King *William* near *Turnham Green*, in his way to *Hampton Court*; also the carbine with which *Charnock* undertook to shoot that monarch as he rode a hunting.

14. A large pair of gates, formed of halberts, with an archway composed of pistols, with cartouch boxes suspended to bandeliers, the whole having a very curious effect.

15. A star and garter, with the thistle, rose and crown, decorated with pistols and other arms, and beautifully adorned with a variety of emblematical devices, curiously wrought.

16. A spear, brought from *Owyhe*, one of the *Sandwich islands* in the South seas, by Capt. *Clerke*. This is a very terrible instrument: it is four feet nine inches long, finely tapered all the way to the point. It is made of a very hard wood, something like *Brazil*. It is jagged for about six or seven inches from the point, which occasions it to mangle the body very much in withdrawing it from the wound. It was an instrument somewhat similar to this which the natives used in murdering the unfortunate Capt. *Cooke*, whose unhappy catastrophe must always be remembered with the greatest sorrow.

17. Carbines for cavalry, very ornamentally disposed.

18. On the south side of the room is a figure representing *Jupiter* in his car, drawn by eagles, upon the clouds, hurling his thunder, with a rainbow over him, all finely carved, and decorated with bayonets.

19. *Henry* the Vth and *Henry* VI.

20. *Medusa's* head, commonly called the Witch of *Endor*, within three regular ellipses of pistols, with snakes represented as stinging her. The features are finely carved, and the whole figure contrived with wonderful art.—This terminates the north side.

A discerning eye will discover such a wonderful variety of pleasing and agreeable objects, almost all of which are made up with different sorts of arms curiously disposed, as no description can possibly convey an adequate idea of; it is therefore proper that every one who has a taste for the admirable combinations of art, should gratify that passion with the sight of a curiosity, the noblest of its kind the world affords.

Of the ROYAL TRAIN of ARTILLERY.

BENEATH the Small Armoury, on a ground-floor of equal dimensions, is the Royal Train of Artillery, which one cannot view without a kind of awful dread. To see so many, and such various engines of destruction, before whose dreadful thunder, churches, palaces, pompous edifices, the noblest works of human genius, fall together in one common and undistinguished ruin; one cannot, I say, reflect upon this, without wishing that the horrible invention had still lain in embryo. *Milton's* making *Satan* the inventor of these infernal engines, is not to be considered as one of the least of the

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beauties in his sublime poem. *Satan*, after informing his crew of the fiery spume and combustible matter contained in the bowels of the earth, proceeds to say,

*These, in their dark nativity, the deep
Shall yield us, pregnant with infernal flame;
Which into hollow engines, long and round,
Thick ramm'd, at the other bore with touch of fire
Dilated and infuriate, shall send forth
From far, with thund'ring noise, among our foes
Such implements of mischief, as shall dash
To pieces and o'erwhelm whatever stands
Adverse.*

You are in this place first shewn two copper cannon, 3 pounders, taken from before the *French* Governor's house at *Quebec*; two mortars, and twenty one fine pieces of cannon, which were brought from *Cherburgh* when that place was attacked by the *English* in the war before last. They are fine pieces, but some of them were spiked by the enemy.

2. Two large pieces of cannon, employed by Admiral *Vernon* before *Carthage*; they have each a large scale driven out of their muzzles by balls from the castle of *Bocca Chica*.

3. Two carved pieces, of excellent workmanship, presented by the city of *London* to the young Duke of *Gloucester*, Queen *Anne*'s son, to learn him the art of war.

4. Four small mortars in miniature, for the throwing hand grenadoes, the invention of Col. *Brown*. They are fired with a lock like a common gun; but have not been introduced into practice.

5. Two fine brass cannon, taken from the walls of *Vigo* by Lord *Cobham* in 1704. Their breaches

represent lions couchant, with the effigies of St. *Barbary*, to whom they were dedicated.

6. A petard, for bursting open castle or city gates.

7. A large train of fine brass battering cannon, 24 pounders, never yet used.

8. A parcel of cannon, of new invention, from 6 to 24 pounders. Their superior excellence consists, first, in their lightness, the 24 pounders weighing not quite 1700wt. whereas formerly they weighed 5000; the rest are in proportion; and 2dly, in the contrivance for levelling them, which is by a screw, instead of beds and coins. This new method is more expeditious, and saves two men to a gun, and is said to be the invention of his Royal Highness the Duke of *Cumberland*.

9. Brass mortars, 13 inches diameter, which throw a shell of 300 weight; with a number of lesser mortars, and shells in proportion.

10. A carcase, which they fill at sieges with pitch, tar, and other combustibles, to set towns on fire; it is thrown out of an 18-inch mortar, and will burn two hours where it happens to fall.

11. A *Spanish* mortar, of 12 inches diameter, taken on board a ship in the *West Indies*.

12. Six *French* pieces of cannon, 6 pounders, taken from the rebels at the battle of *Culloden*, fought *April 16, 1746*. The battle lasted but 35 minutes, and the slaughter was so great, that 3000 rebels fell on the spot: it is said that Lord *Kingston's* horse, each man, on an average, killed 10 or 12 of them in the pursuit.

13. A beautiful piece of ordnance, made for King *Charles I*, when Prince of *Wales*. It is finely ornamented with several emblematical devices, among which is an eagle, throwing a thunder-bolt in the clouds.

14. A train of field-pieces, called the galloping train, carrying a ball of one pound and a half each.

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15. A destroying engine, that throws 30 hand-granadoes at once, and is fired by a train.

16. A most curious brass cannon, the ornamenting of which is said to have cost 200l. It is inscribed with the makers' name, *Thomas and Richard Pitt*, 1608, who undoubtedly deserve great credit for the performance.

17. A piece with seven bores, for throwing so many bullets at once; and another with three; made as early as *Henry VIIIth's* time.

18. The drum-major's chariot of slate, with the kettle drums placed; it is drawn by four white horses, at the head of the train, when upon a march.

19. Two *French* field pieces, taken at the battle of *Hochstadt*, in 1704, in which the *French* had 12,000 men killed, 5000 wounded, and more than 30,000 taken prisoners.

20. An iron cannon, of the first invention, being bars of iron hammered together, and hooped from top to bottom with iron hoops, to prevent its bursting. It has no carriage, but was to be moved from place to place by means of six rings, fixed to it at proper distances.

21. A huge mortar, weighing upwards of 6000 weight, and throwing a shell 500 weight two miles: this mortar was fired so often against *Namur*, in *King William's* time, that the very touch-hole is melted for want of giving it time to cool.—This siege is one of the most memorable in history. The place was thought impregnable, and yet taken from a compleat army within, headed by a marshal of *France*, in the sight of 100,000 men that came to relieve it. Lord *Cutts* commanded the *English* at the general assault of the castle, where he acquired the name of the *English Salamander*. Scarcely an officer or soldier in his corps came off unhurt; the greatest part fell in the action, than which no one was ever more desperate.

22. A fine twisted brass cannon, 12 feet long, made in *Edward* the VIth's time, called *Queen Elizabeth's* pocket-pistol, which your guide, by way of joke, will tell you, she used to wear on her right side when she rode a hunting.

23. Two brass cannon, three bores each, carrying 6 pounders, taken by the Duke of *Marlborough* at the battle of *Ramillies*. Here the famous *French* household troops, which had been boasted of as impenetrable, were totally defeated and ruined; the *French* lost 8000 men killed, and had 6000 taken prisoners.

24. A mortar that throws nine shells at a time, out of which the balloons were fired at the fireworks played off in the year 1746.

25. A very beautiful piece of brass ordnance, curiously wrought, with Lord *Ligonier's* coat of arms on it, and his name and titles, and the names of the rest of the principal Officers of Ordnance.

Besides those above enumerated, there are in this store room a vast number of brass cannon, all new; together with sponges, ladles, rammers, handspikes, wadhooks, &c. with which the walls are lined all round; and under the cieling there hang on poles upwards of 4000 harnesses for horses, besides accoutrements for men, drag-ropes, &c. &c. This room, which is about 380 feet in length, 50 wide, and 24 high, has a spacious passage in the middle, on each side of which the artillery are placed. In it are 20 pillars for supporting the Small Armoury above, [in which we should have noticed the following articles, captured in a *French* ship on her voyage from *Malta* to *France*, when that island was taken by the *French*:—A very curious brass cannon, and the flags of *Malta*.] all hung round with implements of war; and the trophies of standards, colours, &c. taken from the enemy.

HERE the spectator is entertained with a perfect representation of those illustrious Kings and Heroes of our own nation, of whose gallant actions he has heard and read so much; all of them equipped and sitting on horseback, in the same bright and shining armour they were used to wear at the very time when those glorious deeds were performed. But before you are admitted to the presence of these monarchs, you are shewn the model of a most wonderful machine, invented, and first erected at *Derby*, by *Sir Thomas Loombe*, for the purpose of making organzine or thrown silk. This gentleman, after immense labour, and with the assistance of a friar, compleated this machine, and brought it into use, for which he was allowed by Parliament in the year 1742, 14,000*l*. It contains 26,586 Wheels, 97,746 movements, and makes the astonishing quantity of 318,504,660 yards in twenty four hours; all the movements are set to work by one water wheel.

In ascending the stair case, just as you come to the landing place, you will see the figure of a grenadier in his accoutrements, as if upon duty, with his piece resting upon his arm, which at the first glance you will be apt to mistake for real life, so admirably has the painter discovered the excellence of his art in the representation of this centinel. Having entered the room, you first behold a vast number of iron caps and breast plates, most of which were in use in former wars; but the only one which was wont to be shewn as a great curiosity, hangs upon a beam on the left hand as you pass thro' the entry; it has the lower edge of the left side carried away by a slant stroke of a cannon ball; and, as an old warder used to tell the story, the rim of the man's belly that wore it, and part of his bowels, were carried away at the same time; not-

withstanding which, being put under the care of a skilful surgeon, the man recovered, and lived ten years afterwards. This story the old warder constantly told to all strangers, till his late Royal Highness *Frederick Prince of Wales*, coming to view the curiosities of the Tower, and it falling to the old man's lot to attend his Highness, when he came to this breast-plate he repeated his accustomed tale: his Royal Highness listened to him with seeming pleasure, and when he had done, looking at him with a smile—"And what, friend," said he, "is there so extraordinary in all this? I remember myself to have read in a book of a soldier, who had his head cleft in two so dextrously by his enemy, that one half of it fell on one shoulder, and the other half on the opposite shoulder; and yet, on his comrade's clapping the two sides nicely together again, and binding them close with his handkerchief, the man did well, drank his pot of ale at night, and scarcely recollected that he had been hurt." This story, so seasonably applied, put all the company that attended his Royal Highness into a horse laugh, which so chagrined the old warder, that he never had courage to tell his story again, so that the poor battered breast-plate has lain unnoticed ever since.

These breast-plates were almost all in use in the *German* war, but were not thought necessary at first, till the want of them was felt at the battle of *Dettingen*, when the black musketeers of the enemy being covered with their cuirasses (the same piece of armour, with the addition of a back-piece) pierced the very lines of our army, and rode up undaunted to the muzzles of our guns, till being flanked by our foot, and ill supported by their own troops, they were forced to retire, though with an inconsiderable loss, considering their desperate attempt. This plainly discovered the great use of breast-plates,

and orders were sent to *England* for the immediate embarkation of all that were in the Tower fit for service. In the wars of Queen *Anne* there was the same omission, till the Duke of *Marlborough*, being convinced of the disadvantage his horse fought under, against an enemy, entrenched as it were in iron, sent Lord *Cadogan* over, who went himself to the Tower, and chose out as many breast and back-plates as he could find fit for his purpose; but the Duke would not suffer the latter to be worn, being, he said, an useless incumbrance, for he was sure his men would never shew their backs to the enemy. Most of these breast-plates are musket-proof; they are quilted on the inside, and so contrived as to cover the whole trunk of the body, and yet by the manner of fixing them on are very little trouble to the wearer. There are likewise to be seen here a great many cuirasses taken from the *French* out of a ship called the Holy Ghost, and marked *Torras*, perhaps the Admiral's name.

What has been said is rather by way of remark than description.—When you enter the room, the first thing your conductor presents to your view is,

1. The figures of the Horse and Foot, supposed to be drawn up in military order to attend the Kings on the other side of the house; these figures are as big as life, and have a grand appearance.

2. A large tilting lance of *Charles Brandon*, Duke of Suffolk, King *Henry* the VIIIth's General in *France*. This nobleman excelled at the then fashionable diversion of tilting, and engaging King *Henry* VIII. who was likewise passionately fond of that exercise, gave the King such a shock with his spear, that had like to have cost him his life. The Duke's valour had indeed been sufficiently tried in *France*, when he attended the Princess *Mary* on her marriage with *Louis* XII. On this occasion, *Francis* of *Valois*, presumptive heir to the Crown

of *France*, being willing to give some proof of his valour, caused jousts to be proclaimed; these jousts continued three days, in which 305 men at arms were answered by their defendants; of whom some were so hurt that they died soon after: *Francis*, as was thought, intending an affront to the Duke, caused a *German*, the strongest about the Court, to be armed secretly, and to present himself: they both did well; yet the Duke at last, with the butt end of his spear, struck the *German* till he staggered, and then the rail was let fall: having breathed awhile, they renewed the fight, when the Duke so mauled the *German* about the head, that the blood gushed out at his nose and ears, and then he was secretly conveyed away. Before this encounter, the Duke had likewise unhorsed a gentleman at tilts, and hurt him desperately.

3. A compleat suit of tilting armour, such as the Kings, Nobility, and the Gentlemen at arms used to exercise in on horseback; at which diversion one of the Kings of *France* is said to have been killed by a shiver of a spear striking him in the eye. Likewise the tilting lance, the rest for the tilting-lance, with the grand guard, and the flits before the eye, through which they take the fight.

4. A compleat suit of armour, made for King *Henry VIII.* when he was but 18 years of age, rough from the hammer: it is at least six feet high, and the joints in the hands, arms and thighs, knees and feet, play like the joints of a rattle-snake, and are moved with all the facility imaginable. The method of learning the exercise of tilting was upon wooden horses set on castors, which by the sway of the body could be moved every way; so that by frequent practice the rider could shift, parry, strike, unhorse, and recover, with surprising dexterity. Some of the horses in this Armoury have undoubtedly been made use of for this purpose: and it is

not a great many years since the castors were taken off their feet.

5. A little suit of armour made for King *Charles II.* when he was Prince of *Wales*, and about seven years of age, with a piece of armour for his horse's head; the whole most curiously wrought, and inlaid with silver.

6. Lord *Courcy's* armour, who, as the warders tell you, was grand champion in *Ireland*, and as a proof, shew you the very sword he took from the grand champion in *France*; for which valiant action he and all his successors have the privilege of wearing their hats in the King's presence. — It is recorded of this gallant Nobleman, that when a conspiracy was formed against him in *Ireland* by his own servants, at the instigation of *Hugh de Lury*, who was jealous of his power; though he was betrayed at his devotions, he laid 13 of the conspirators dead at his feet before he was overpowered. He was afterwards committed prisoner to the Tower of London; and it is no improbable conjecture, that what is shewn is the very armour he brought with him to that prison.

7. Real coats of mail, called brigandine jackets: they consist of small bits of steel, so artfully quilted one over another, as to resist the point of a sword, and, it is thought, of a musket bullet, and yet they are so flexible, that you may bend your body in them any way, as well as in ordinary cloathing.

8. An Indian suit of armour, sent as a present to King *Charles II.* from the Great Mogul: this is indeed a great curiosity: it is made of iron quills about two inches long, finely japanned, and ranged in rows, one row slipping over another very artificially; they are bound together with silk twist very strong: they are used in that country against darts and arrows, poisoned or unpoisoned.

9. A neat little suit of armour, on which is a carved figure representing *Richard* Duke of *York*, King *Edward* the IVth's youngest son, who, with his brother *Edward* V. were smothered in the Bloody Tower by order of *Richard* III. commonly called Crook-back'd *Richard*, their uncle and guardian. The manner of their deaths, as related by some historians, is this: one Sir *James Tyrrel*, a strong resolute fellow, having an order from the King for that purpose, and employing one *Miles Forrest*, a common ruffian, and *John Digby*, his own groom, those two wretches by night entered the room where the young princes, attended only by one servant, were confined, and while they slept smothered them both in their bed cloaths. After this *Tyrrel* caused them to be buried at the stair foot, deep under ground, where their bones were actually found in the reign of King *Charles* II. See more of this in the history of Westminster-abbey.

10. The armour of the great *John* of *Gaunt*, Duke of *Lancaster*, who was the son of a king, the father of a king, and the uncle of a king, but was never king himself. *Dugdale* says, that more kings and sovereign princes sprang from his loins than from any king in *Christendom*. He was interred, with *Blanch*, his first wife, on the north side of the choir of the old cathedral church of *St. Paul*; and on his monument hung his proper helmet and spear, as also his target, covered with horn, which precious relics were unfortunately consumed with that stately edifice itself, by the dreadful fire of *London*. The armour here shewn is seven foot high, and the sword and lance of an enormous size.

11. The droll figure of *Will Somers*, as the warders tell you, King *Henry* VIIIth's jester; an honest man, say they, of a woman's making. He had a handsome woman to his wife, who made him a cuckold; and wears his horns on his head because

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they should not wear holes in his pockets. He would neither believe king, queen, nor any about the court that he was a cuckold, till he put his spectacles on to see, being a little dim-sighted, as all cuckolds should be—in which antick manner he is here represented.

12. A collar of torments, which, say your conductors, used formerly to be put about the necks of the women that cuckolded their husbands, or scolded at them when it happened that they came home late; but that custom is left off now-a days, as smiths could not be found to make them fast enough, and as most married men would want them at some time or other.

WE come now to the line of kings, which, to follow the mode of your conductors, we must reverse the order of their chronology, and describe the last first; as

1. His late Majesty, King *George II.* in a compleat suit of armour, sitting with a sword in his hand on a white horse richly caparisoned, having a profusion of ornamental trappings. This Monarch was born at *Hanover* on the 30th of *October*, 1683, came to the crown on the death of his father *George I.* *June 11*, 1727; and died *Oct. 25*, 1760, at his palace at *Kensington*.

2. King *George I.* in a compleat suit of armour, sitting, with a truncheon in his hand, on a white horse, richly caparisoned, having a fine *Turkey* bridle gilt with gold, with a globe, crescent, and star, velvet furniture laced with gold, and gold trappings. This prince was born in 1660; came to the crown on the death of *Queen Anne*, *August 1*, 1714; and died *June 11*, 1727, on his journey to *Hanover*.

3. King *William III.* dressed in the very suit of armour worn by *Edward the Black Prince*, son of

Edward III. in the famous battle of *Cressy*, wherein the *French* lost 11 princes, 18 bannerets, 1200 knights, 1500 gentlemen at arms, 4000 squires, who were mounted on horseback, and 30,000 common men. He is mounted on a sorrel horse, whose furniture is green velvet, embroidered with silver, and holds in his right hand a flaming sword. The battle of the *Boyne*, in *Ireland*, and the taking of *Namur*, are the only memorable victories of this warlike King, who was born in 1650, ascended the British throne on the abdication of King *James II.* his father-in law, *Feb. 13, 1688*; and died *March 8, 1702*, by a fall from his horse.

4. King *Charles II.* dressed in the armour which was worn by the champion of *England* at the coronation of his late Majesty. There is nothing very memorable in this King's story, but his sufferings and his restoration to the crown, after twelve years banishment. He sits with a truncheon in his hand, on a fine horse richly caparisoned with crimson velvet laced with gold. He was born in 1630, succeeded to the throne on the death of his father *Charles I. Jan. 3, 1649*, and died *Feb 6, 1684*.

5. King *Charles I.* in a rich suit of his own proper armour, gilt with gold, and curiously wrought, presented to him by the city of *London* when he was Prince of *Wales*; and in the same armour that was laid on the coffin at the funeral procession of the late great Duke of *Marlborough*; on which occasion a collar of SS's was added to it, and is now round it. The civil wars in this king's reign, and his untimely death, afford a very melancholy story, which will never be forgotten. He was born in 1600, succeeded his father King *James I. March 27, 1625*, and was beheaded before his own palace gates *Jan. 30, 1649*.

6. *James I. of England*, and *VI. of Scotland*. By his succeeding to the throne of *England*, on the

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death of Queen *Elizabeth*, the kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, which till then had been at continual wars, were united under one head. He sits on horseback, with a truncheon in his right hand, dressed in a compleat suit of figured armour. He was born in 1566, mounted the *English* throne *March* 24, 1603, and died *March* 27, 1625, after one of the most inglorious reigns of any in the *British* history.

7. King *Edward VI.* the first Protestant prince that ever reigned in *England* (if the father of the reformation be excepted.) He is said by some to have been cut out of the womb of his mother, Lady *Jane Seymour*, who died twelve days after her delivery. The memorable acts of his reign are those of charity and beneficence. He gave to the citizens of *London* three hospitals, viz. *Christ's*, for the maintenance and education of poor citizens children; that of *Bridewell*, for bringing them up to trades; and that of *St. Thomas* for healing the sick and diseased. He is dressed in a most curious suit of steel armour, whereon are depicted, in different compartments, a vast variety of scripture pieces, alluding to battles, and other memorable passages. He sits on horseback, like the rest, with a truncheon in his right hand. He was born *October* 12, 1537, proclaimed king *January* 31, 1548, and died *July* 6, 1553.

8. King *Henry VIII.* in his own proper armour, being of polished steel, the foliages whereof are gilt, or inlaid with gold. In his right hand he bears a sword, but whether of cruelty or mercy, will hardly, I think, admit of a doubt. His reign is marked with the divorce and murder of wives, the destruction of religious houses and monasteries, and by a defiance of all laws divine and human. He was born *June* 28, 1491, succeeded his father *Henry VII.* *April* 22, 1509, and died *Jan.* 28, 1547.

9. *Henry VII.* who killed *Richard III.* in the memorable battle of *Bosworth Field*, and, by marrying *Elizabeth*, eldest daughter of *Edward IV.* united the two famous houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, about whose claims such a deluge of *English* blood had been poured forth. This prince likewise holds a sword in his hand, and sits on horseback, in a compleat suit of armour, finely wrought and washed with silver. He was born in 1457; crowned Oct. 30, 1485, and died April 12, 1509.

10. *Edward V.* who with his brother *Richard*, as before observed, was smothered in the Tower: he was proclaimed king, but never crowned, for which reason a crown is hung over his head: he is in a rich suit of armour, finely decorated, and holds in his right hand a lance.

11. King *Edward IV.* father to the unhappy princes abovementioned: his reign is stained with blood and lust: and though he was fortunate in most of his battles; yet his victories were all at the expence of his own subjects. At the battle of *Towton*, 36,000 *English* are said to have been killed; and during his reign, *Guthrie* says, no less than 200,000 *English* lost their lives in the contest between *Henry* of *Lancaster* and this *Edward* of *York*. He was equally formed for love and war; and his gallantries with the citizens wives, among whom was the famous *Jane Shore*, are still remembered with detestation. He is here distinguished by a suit of bright armour, studded, and by holding in his right hand a drawn sword. He was born in 1441, began his reign March 4, 1460, and died in 1483.

12. King *Henry VI.* who, though crowned King of *France*, lost all that kingdom. In his reign no less than sixteen battles were fought at home and abroad. The bloody civil wars commenced between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, already mentioned. The rebellion of *Jack Cade*, who entered *London*,

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and beheaded Lord Say, happened in his reign. The famous *Joan of Arc*, or *Maid of Orleans*, started up also, and spread her fame through all *Europe*, by raising the siege of *Orleans*. In his time also the art of printing was first introduced into *England*, by *William Caxton*, a mercer, who erected a press in a chapel at *Westminster*, and thereby laid the foundation of general erudition. This prince was born in 1422, began his reign *August 31*, the same year (being an infant) and was murdered in the Tower by the Duke of *Gloucester* in 1461.

13. The warlike and victorious *Henry V.* who by his conquests in *France* gained immortal glory. He caused himself to be declared regent and presumptive heir of that kingdom. With only 9000 *English* he defeated 15,000 *French* at the battle of *Agincourt*, where he took more prisoners than he had men in his army. Near *Harfleur* 15,000 *French* were defeated by 1500 *English*. This prince, before he came to the crown; was the constant companion of Sir *John Falstaff*. He was born in 1389, began to reign *March 20*, 1413, and died *August 31*, 1422. A short reign, but full of glory.

14. *Henry IV.* great *John of Gaunt's* son. His reign is made infamous by a bloody statute to burn hereticks. He was notwithstanding valiant; but his courage was employed to secure himself on the throne, to which he had but slight pretensions. Four insurrections against him were defeated, the greatest of which he quelled himself by the battle of *Shrewsbury*, wherein *Harry Hotspur* and 10,000 rebels fell, besides as many of his own troops. He twice beat the *Welsh*, under *Owen Glendower*. He was born in 1367, ascended the throne *September 20*, 1396, and died *March 20*, 1423.

15. *Edward III.* *John of Gaunt's* father, and father to *Edward the Black Prince*, of whom we

have already spoken. Besides the battle of *Cressy*, the ever memorable battle of *Poitiers* was fought by this king, at which *John* King of *France* was taken prisoner, and brought to *England*, where he met *David* King of *Scots*, prisoner there also; and these two, accompanied by the King of *England* and the King of *Cyprus*, who happened to be on his travels to the *English* court, were all entertained at a banquet by a citizen of *London*, at *Vintner's Hall*. *David*, King of *Scots*, was afterwards ransomed for 10,000 marks; and *John*, King of *France*, for 500,000 crowns. *Edward* the Black Prince died in 1376, to the inexpressible grief of the king and the whole nation; but his son, *Richard II.* succeeded to the throne, whereby the famous *John* of *Gaunt* was excluded. *Edward III.* is represented here with a venerable grey beard, and in a suit of plain bright armour, with two crowns on his sword, alluding to the two kingdoms of *France* and *England*, of both which he was crowned king, and was the first who quartered the arms of *France* with his own; adding the motto, *Dieu et mon Droit*—God and my Right. He was born in 1312, called to the throne on the deposition of his father, *January* 25, 1326, and died *June* 21, 1377, after a glorious reign of 50 years.

16. *Edward I.* in a very curious suit of gilt armour, with this peculiarity, that the shoes thereof are of mail. He is represented with a battle-axe in his hand, perhaps to distinguish him from the rest, he being the only king in the line who had employed his arms against the *Turks* and *Infidels*, by an expedition to the Holy Land. The warders tell you, that being there shot with a poisoned arrow, his queen, who accompanied him, sucking the wound, she died and he lived; and add, that he afterwards brought her corpse over, and buried it in *Westminster* abbey: but *Camden*, who reports this fact, tells

it thus: "When her husband was treacherously wounded by a *Moor* with a poisoned dagger, and the wounds, by reason of the malignity of the poison, could not be closed, she licked them daily with her own tongue, and sucked out the venomous humour; by the power whereof he was entirely cured of his wound, and she escaped unhurt." This fact happened in 1272; the queen (*Eleanor of Castile*) died at *Herdby* in *Lincolnshire*, November 29, 1290, being eighteen years after; from whence she was carried to *Westminster-abbey*, and there pompously interred by order of her husband. This warlike prince conquered *Wales*; asserted a right of sovereignty over *Scotland*; raised *Balliol* to the throne of that kingdom; and afterwards cited him before the Parliament at *Westminster*, to answer to a complaint made against him by the Earl of *Fife*. He was every where victorious, and his reign is famed for acts of justice, and for being one of the fairest in the *English* history. He was born 1239, made the crusade in his father's life-time, and received the news of his death, and of his own advancement to the crown in his journey home. He began his reign, November 16, 1272, and died of the bloody flux, July 7, 1307.

17. First in the line, though last shewn, sits *William the Conqueror*, Duke of *Normandy*, in a suit of plain armour. This valiant prince, having with his *Normans*, on some pretence of right to the crown, invaded *England*, he, by one decisive battle, accomplished his great design. This memorable battle was fought October 14, 1066, near *Hastings* in *Sussex*; in which King *Harold*, with the flower of the *English* nobility, and best warriors, were slain. Some authors affirm, that this victory was obtained by means of the broad arrow and long bow which the *Normans* were in possession of, and with which the *English* were then utterly unac-

quainted, though afterwards they became such expert archers, that with the same weapons they conquered *France*. The glory of this monarch's reign, and of his victories, is stained by the cruel and arbitrary forest laws he enacted, and the waste and devastation he made by converting a tract of land of more than threescore miles in circumference, into a den of wild beasts, driving the inhabitants out, and filling their habitations with wolves and boars; forbidding those unhappy men, whose lands and properties he had invaded, on pain of death, to kill either deer or wild boar; for the king, as an historian observes, loved all those wild beasts as if he had been their father. He was born in 1027, was crowned *October 14*, 1066, and died *September 9*, 1087.

Over the door, as you go out of this Armoury is a target, on which are engraved, by a masterly hand, the figures, as it should seem, of Fortune, Fortitude, and Justice; and round the room, the walls are every where lined with various old uncommon pieces of armour, such as targets, caps, horses heads, breast-plates, and many other forts so ancient, that their names and uses are now totally unknown.

Of the JEWEL-OFFICE.

A Description of this place has already been given, and nothing remains but to give an account of the curiosities contained in it.

And, 1. The imperial crown such as all the kings of *England* have been crowned with since *Edward the Confessor* in 1042. It is of gold, enriched with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, and pearls. The cap within is of purple velvet, lined with white taffaty, turned up with three rows of ermine. They

are mistaken in shewing this as the ancient imperial diadem of *St. Edward*; for that, with the other ancient regalia of this kingdom, was kept in the arched room in the Cloisters of *Westminster-abbey*, till the grand rebellion, when in 1642 *Harry Martin* by order of the then Parliament, broke open the iron chest in which it was secured; took it thence, and sold it, together with the robes, sword, and sceptre of *St. Edward*. After the Restoration, King *Charles II.* had one made like it, which is that now shewn.

2. The golden orb or globe, put into the King's right hand before he is crowned, and borne in his left, with the sceptre in his right, upon his return into *Westminster-hall* after he is crowned. It is about six inches in diameter, edged with pearl, and enriched with precious stones. On the top is an amethyst of a violet colour, near an inch and a half in height, set upon a rich cross of gold, adorned with diamonds, pearls, and precious stones. The whole height of the globe, cross, &c. is eleven inches.

3. The *Golden Sceptre*, with its *Cross*, set upon a large amethyst, of great value, garnished round with table diamonds. The handle of the sceptre is plain, but the pommel is set round with rubies, emeralds, and small diamonds. The top rises into a *fleur de lis* of six leaves, all enriched with precious stones, from whence issueth a mound or ball made of the amethyst already mentioned. The sceptre is a very ancient ensign of kingly power. Among the *Jews* it was used as an emblem of power and royalty, and spiritually as a weapon to oppose the wicked, and protect the good. The cross is quite covered with precious stones.

4. The Sceptre with the Dove, the emblem of peace, perched on the top of a small *Jerusalem* cross, finely ornamented with table diamonds and

jewels of great value. This emblem was first used by *Edward the Confessor*, as appears by his seal. It is also marked on the seals of *Henry I.* *Stephen*, and *Henry II.* but omitted by *Richard I.* *Richard II.* assumed it again on his seal; and it was afterwards used by *Edward IV.* and *Richard III.* The ancient one was sold with the rest. This now in the Tower was made after the Restoration.

A bold attempt was made in the reign of King *Charles II.* to carry off these ensigns of royalty, the particulars whereof are omitted by our latter historians, though the most singular enterprize that ever was undertaken. The projector of this theft was one *Col. Blood*, by birth a gentleman, of *Ireland*, who, having spent his substance in following the fortune of King *Charles II.* while in adversity, thought himself hardly used, by being neglected when that prince was restored to his just rights; and therefore, after being engaged in several very desperate, though unsuccessful plots, such as surprising the castle of *Dublin*, seizing the person of the Duke of *Ormond*, and others, he at length thought of a scheme to make himself amends, once for all, by seizing the crown, globe, sceptre, and dove, and carrying them all off together; for this purpose he put himself into the habit of a doctor of divinity, with a little band, a long false beard, a cap with ears, and all those other formalities of garb belonging to that degree, except the gown, choosing rather to make use of a cloak, as most proper for his design. Under this disguise, he made it his business to get acquainted with the keeper of the regalia, an old man, whom he treated and caressed at a rate not so much expensive as kind and obliging; by which means such a friendship and intimacy was soon established between them, that the old man having a son, and the doctor pretending to have a daughter, they mutually agreed to match

them together; but the son being at sea, put the pretended daughter under no necessity of appearing. The night before the fact was to be done, the doctor told the old man, that he had some friends at his house that wanted to see the regalia, but that they were to go out of town pretty early in the morning, and therefore hoped he would gratify them with the sight, though they might come a little before the usual hour. (*Blood* had engaged three accomplices, named *Desborough*, *Kelsey*, and *Perrot*, in this enterprize.) Accordingly two of them came accompanied by the doctor, about eight in the morning, and the third held their horses that waited for them at the outer gate of the Tower ready saddled; they had no other apparatus but a wallet and a wooden mallet, which there was no great difficulty to conceal. Upon their approach the old man received them with great civility, and presently admitted them into his office; but as it is customary for the keeper of the regalia, when he shews them, to lock himself up in a kind of grate with open bars, to the end that those things may be seen but not soiled, the old man had no sooner opened the door of this place, but the doctor and his companions were in at his heels, and without giving him time to ask any questions, effectually silenced him by knocking him down with a wooden mallet; they then instantly made flat the bows of the crown to make it more portable, seized the sceptre and dove, put them into the wallet together, and were preparing to make their escape, when, unfortunately for them, the old man's son, who had not been at home for ten years before, came from sea in the very nick, and being told that his father was with some friends who would be very glad to see him, at the Jewel-office, he posted thither immediately, and met *Blood* and his companions as they were just coming out: who, instead of returning and securing him, as in good policy they ought to have done, pushed

forward with their prize, in order to escape; but the young man seeing his father weltering in his blood, and the treasure gone, instantly alarmed the first upon guard, who giving the signal to the rest, the gates were shut, and the criminals secured, all but the man who held the horses, who instantly fled upon the first rumour: upon searching them the prize was recovered, though all bruized and battered, and one stone lost, which was afterwards found by a cinder girl, and restored; the next thing to be done was to confine the prisoners, and acquaint his Majesty with the nature of their offence, and take directions from court how to proceed: the result was, that the King had a fancy to examine *Blood* himself; and while all men thought that some new punishment would be devised to torture so daring an offender, his Majesty thought proper not only to pardon him and his accomplices, but to grant *Blood* a pension, some say of 500l. a year during his life. What the motives were that induced his Majesty to shew so much lenity to a man, who had been engaged in so many plots and conspiracies, is yet a secret, and ever must remain so: many conjectures were formed, and surmises made, but no man knew the truth. *Blood* soon after died of grief, being convicted of a plot against the Duke of *Buckingham*, who laid a heavy action of *scandalum magnatum* against him, by which he was like to remain a prisoner for life; though most people were of opinion, that this plot was forged against him by his enemies; and having escaped punishment for what he did do, suffered at last for what he did not do. It was just hinted that *Blood* was engaged in a plot to surprise *Dublin Castle*, and another to seize the person of the Duke of *Ormond*; of both which, though a little foreign to the present subject, some little account will be given. Upon the restoration, many *English*, *Scots*, and *Irish*, were dissatisfied, and only wanted a head to

lead them into action: Col. *Blood* having declared himself of their party, was thought a proper person for that purpose; and, as nothing could be attempted in *England* with any prospect of success, *Ireland* was pitched upon for the scene of rebellion: the Colonel knowing what advantage it would be to their cause to be master of some place of strength, proposed to begin with the surprise of *Dublin Castle*; which was accordingly to have been attempted on the 29th of *May*, the anniversary of the King's return, in the following manner: *Blood*, with a company of resolute fellows, were, under a pretence of presenting a petition to the Duke of *Ormond*, then Lord Lieutenant, to have procured admittance, and seized his person, while about fourscore chosen foot, in the habits of tradesmen, were to have waited without, and upon a certain signal to have surprised the guards; but this plot, by the treachery of one of the conspirators, having been defeated before it was ripe, a proclamation was issued out, with a reward of five hundred pounds for the apprehension of any of the ringleaders; in consequence whereof one Mr. *Eockey*, brother-in-law to *Blood*, was taken, tried, and executed, and *Blood* himself obliged to make his escape; but with a full resolution to be revenged of the Duke of *Ormond*, by whose vigilance his views had been disappointed, and his brother-in-law hanged. But it was not until nine years afterwards that he durst attempt any thing upon the Duke's person; when having engaged five of his old and trusty friends, on the 6th of *December*, 1670, being all well armed and mounted, they beset the Duke's coach, as he was passing from St. *James's* palace, through the long street that leads to *Clarendon* house, where the Duke then resided; and having knocked out the flambeaux and secured the attendants, they forced the Duke out of his coach, and had actually tied him behind

one of their associates (who was to have rode with him without stopping till he came to an appointed place, where they were to meet him, and consult what advantage they should make of their prisoner) when his Grace's porter, being apprised of his master's danger, by a boy who had concealed himself under the coach, and escaped, seasonably came to his rescue; but, what was very surprising, not one of the ruffians ever were apprehended, tho' a thousand pounds reward was offered, till the attempt already related discovered them, and then they were all pardoned. But to return from this long digression. The other jewels shewn here are,

5. *St. Edward's Staff*, in length four feet seven inches and an half, and three inches and three quarters in circumference, all of beaten gold, which is carried before the king at his coronation.

6. A rich *Salt-celler of state*, in form like the square *White Tower*, and so exquisitely wrought, that the workmanship of modern times is in no degree equal to it. It is of gold, and used only on the king's table at his coronation.

7. The *curtana*, or sword of mercy, the blade 32 inches long, and near two broad, is without a point, and is borne naked before the king at his coronation, between the two swords of justice, spiritual and temporal.

8. A noble *Silver Font*; double gilt with gold, and elegantly wrought, in which the royal family are chrismened.

9. A large *Silver Fountain*, presented to King *Charles II.* by the town of *Plymouth*, very curiously wrought, but far short of the one already described.

10. The rich crown of state that his majesty wears in Parliament, in which is a large emerald seven inches round; a pearl, the finest in the world; and a ruby of inestimable value.

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11. His Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales's* crown. These two last-named crowns, when his majesty goes to the Parliament house, are carried by the keeper of the Jewel-office, attended by the warder, privately in a coach to *Whitehall*, where they are delivered to officers appointed to receive them, who, with some yeomen of the guard, carry them to the robing rooms, where his majesty and the prince robe themselves. The king wears his crown upon his head as he sits upon the throne; but that of the prince of *Wales* is placed before him, to shew that he is not yet come to it. As soon as the king is unrobed, the two crowns are reconducted to the Tower by the same person that brought them.

12. Queen *Mary's* Crown, Globe, and Sceptre, with the diadem her majesty wore in proceeding to her coronation with her royal consort King *William*.

13. An ivory Sceptre, with a dove on the top, made for King *James* the Second's queen, whose garniture is gold, and the dove on the top gold, enamelled with white.

14. The golden spurs and the armillas, which are bracelets for the wrists, very antique, and worn at the coronation.

15. Lastly, the Ampulla, or eagle of gold, finely engraved, which holds the holy oil the kings and queens of *England* are anointed with; and the Golden Spoon that the bishop pours the oil into. These are two pieces of great antiquity. The golden eagle, including the pedestal, is about nine inches high, and the wings expand about seven inches; the whole weighs about 10 ounces. The head of the eagle screws off about the middle of the neck, which is made hollow for holding the holy oil; and when the king is anointed by the bishop,

the oil is poured into the spoon out of the bird's beak.

Of this eagle take the following legend:—*St. Thomas Becket* being in disgrace at *Sens* in *France*, the holy virgin appeared to him, and gave him a stone vessel of oil, enclosed in a golden eagle, and bid him give it to *William*, a monk, to carry to *Pictavia*, and there hide it in *St. Gregory's* church, under a great stone, where it should be found for the use of pious and prosperous kings: accordingly, *Henry III.* when Duke of *Lancaster*, received it from a holy man in *France*, and *Richard II.* finding it among other riches, endeavoured to be anointed with it; but was supplanted by archbishop *Arundel*, who afterwards anointed *Henry IV.* Such is the fabulous history of the ampulla.

There are in the Jewel office, besides those commonly shewn, all the crown jewels worn by the princes and princesses at the coronations, and a vast variety of curious old plate; but what is already described is sufficient to gratify any moderate curiosity, though it must be confessed, that the eye can never be satisfied with seeing, where the objects are so worthy of notice.

Of the M I N T.

THERE is no describing the particular processes the various metals undergo here previous to their being stamped into money. The stamping is very quickly performed by means of an engine, worked sometimes by three men, sometimes by four. The manner of stamping gold and halfpence is exactly the same; only a little more care is necessary in one than the other, in order to prevent waste. The engine works by a spindle, like that of a printing press; to the point of which the head

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of the die is fixed with a screw, and in a little sort of cup which receives it is placed the reverse: between these the piece of metal, already cut round to the size, and, if gold, exactly weighed, is placed; and by once pulling down the spindle with a jerk, is compleatly stamped. It is amazing to see how dextrously the coiner performs this; for as fast as the men that work the engine turn the spindle, so fast does he supply it with metal, putting in the unstamped piece with his fore finger and thumb, and twitching out the stamp piece with his middle finger. The gold and silver thus stamp are afterwards milled round the edges, the manner of which is never shewn to any one.

FINIS.



T. NORTH, Printer, Little Tower Street.

